AIR Force Plane Crashes

*226. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several Air Force planes are crashing in course of training;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years;

(c) whether it is a fact that non-availability of AJTs is a major factor for this; and

(d) if so, the status of acquisition of AJTs and other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Some accidents have taken place on trainer aircraft of the IAF during the course of training. Details of such accidents for the last two years are given in the statements (*See* below).

There are a number of factors for aircraft accidents. Each accident is investigated by an independent Court of Inquiry comprising of specialists from various fields to determine the causes. Major causes identified for aircraft accidents are — Human Error (Aircrew), Technical Defect and Bird Hit.

While the non-availability of Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) cannot be linked directly to any accident, training on AJTs will permit a safer and smoother transition of young trainee pilots to high performance aircraft.

Government have decided to go in for the acquisition AJT for the IAF. Various options are currently under examination.

Statement

Details of accidents that took place during the last two years

I. Accidents on Trainer Aircraft in 1999-2000:

Aircraft	No. of Cat-1 Accidents	HE(A)*	TD*	BH*	UR*
Iskara	01	—	01	—	—
Kiran	02	—	01	—	01
HPT-32	01	—	01	—	—
TOTAL:	04	—	03	—	01

II. Accidents on Trainer Aircraft in 2000-2001:

Aircraft	No. of Cat-1 Accidents	HE(A)*	TD*	BH*	UR*
Iskara	—	—	—	—	—
Kiran	01	—	01	—	—
HPT-32	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	01	—	01	—	—

III. Accidents on Trainer Aircraft in 2001-2002:

(Up to 28th November, 2001)

Aircraft	No. of Cat-1 Accidents	HE(A)*	TD*	BH*	UR*
Iskara	—	—	—	—	—
Kiran	02	01	01	—	—
HPT-32	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:	02	01	01	—	—

*HE(A) — Human Error (Aircrew)
TD — Technical defect
BH — Bird Hit
UR — Unresolved

Procurement of advance Jet Trainers

*227. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with which negotiations for procurement of advance Jet Trainers are going on;

(b) when the bids are to be finalised; and

(c) the terms for supply of the AJTs?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Various options for procurement of an Advanced Jet Trainer are under examination by the Government.